Millennial Star

1842

Emma Hale Smith

1942

Amy Brown Lyman

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RELIEF SOCIETY CENTENNIAL NUMBER

POETRY

FIRST PRIZE POEM

RELIEF SOCIETY CENTENNIAL

The call to serve a sacred cause
To Joseph Smith was manifest,
He gather'd round a little band
Of women who would stand the te·t.

'Twas no easy thing he asked
In travel on the plains
To nurse the sick, comfort bereaved
And help in countless other ways.

Yet, with help rendered from the Lord,
And inspiration that He lent,
Never did they count the cost,
Into danger great they went.

Men must reap that which they sow
Is verily a truth;
The love which these sweet sisters show
Is rightly bearing fruit.

Just eighteen souls of mercy then,
But how their numbers swell
Until in just one hundred years
A hundred thousand they can tell.

One hundred thousand seek to save.
Upon this, friends, reflect,
To serve the Lord in every way;
'Tis the highest form of Glory yet.

—Rose N. Munton,
West London Branch.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

Hearken unto the voice of the Lord your God, while I speak unto you Emma Smith, my daughter, for verily I say unto you, all those who receive my gospel are sons and daughters in my kingdom. . . .

Behold, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou art an elect lady, whom I have called.—Doctrine and Covenants, Section 25.

Sister Helen E. Poole

First Counsellor

Sister Marie W. Anastasiou

President

Sister Maud A. Hawkes

Second Counsellor

Sister Miriam Mann

Secretary

OUR LOVE AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL

Sister Marjorie McCormick

Historian

Greetings

WITH the dawning of our Centennial Year, the General Board extends affectionate greetings to Relief Society women throughout the Church.

How happy and blessed we are in our membership in an organization which for one hundred years has been devoted to the cause of humanity and the glory of God—a mission for which it was organized and set apart by its Prophet-Founder.

As we look back over the long road which has been travelled, we can visualize the brave women of each period who have made their contribution and passed the work on to others, leaving their memories and inspiration as a precious heritage to those who have followed.

As we review the work of the past year, which is typical of that of other years, the feeling uppermost in our hearts is one of sincere thanksgiving and gratitude to you dear Sisters of today for your earnest labours and notable achievements, and to our Heavenly Father for the manifold blessings and mercies He has bestowed upon us and upon our organization.

While we have cause for rejoicing in our growth, development, and accomplishments, we are not unmindful of the sorrows and suffering in many lands today, of the unrest which is spreading over the whole face of the earth, and of the tendency to destroy instead of to build. Our constant prayer is that in this year which is especially sacred to us, and which is our most important milepost, the forces of evil may be destroyed, that misunderstanding, selfishness, and hate may be removed from the hearts of men, and that sympathy, understanding, and reason, and the spirit of the Master may enter therein; that war may cease and peace be established in the earth.

It is the plain teaching of history that there is only one way to avoid war, and that is to remove the causes of war. We believe it is within the power of men to put into operation those forces that would bring this about, and that this could be done if they would carefully study and be willing to apply in their daily lives the teachings of the Saviour. Jesus said:

". . . Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matthew 22: 37-39.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."—Matthew 7: 12.

If the abiding aim of all the people of the world could be the promotion and practice of these divine teachings, which foster love for, and faith in, all mankind, it would be the greatest step that could be taken to bring about permanent peace.

That we may in our own lives re-dedicate ourselves to the way of life proposed by the Master is our earnest prayer.

AMY BROWN LYMAN,
MARCIA K. HOWELLS,
DONNA D. SORENSEN,
General Presidency.

VERA W. POHLMAN,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

A Tribute To The Relief Society

By Elder Rudger Clawson
President, Council of the Twelve Apostles

From The Relief Society Magazine

Rudger Clawson

IN August, 1919, I was appointed by President Heber J. Grant as special adviser to the General Board of Relief Society, and was commissioned to assist in consolidating the accounts of all the departments of the general office and to set up a system of bookkeeping adapted to the needs of the Society. I did that, and since that time I have supervised the yearly audit of the business and the accounts. I have frequently counselled with the officers of the Society and advised them on the various problems that arise almost daily. I am, therefore, familiar with the details of their work and am in a position to know what they are actually doing.

I should like to most warmly commend Sister Lyman and her associates, her predecessors and their associates, for the efficient manner in which they have carried on the great volume of business necessary in such an important organization. The service which the Relief Society renders to the Church is great indeed. Few, I fear, understand the magnitude and the importance of this work. These Sisters carry forward a programme second only to that of the Priesthood. It is both temporal and spiritual. Relief Society women minister to the needs of those in distress. They plant faith and hope in the hearts of the sorrowing and disconsolate. The Relief Society in all its work reflects the true spirit of the Gospel. The membership of the organization is made up of women of experience, of faith and understanding. This enables them to perform the delicate and important tasks that go with the charity service of the Church in a manner unparalelled in other organisations. In a spirit of true Christianity they go about doing good.

In addition to all of the assistance which the Society gives to those who are in need, it has a great educational programme that builds faith, inspires a love for learning and culture, and that brightens the lives and improves the homes of all its members. I have had great pleasure in my extensive travels among the Saints in encouraging the Sisters to join the Society, and I have encouraged Priesthood members everywhere to support and help it. While it is an auxiliary organization, it is a great help and a great support to the Bishops in their arduous labours.

It gives me real pleasure to extend to the members of this great Society every good wish and blessing during this Centennial year and for the future.

A Brief History Of The British Mission Relief Society

By Sister Marjorie A. McCormick

Historian, British Mission Relief Society Board.

IT is difficult to find the exact date when the Relief Society was first organised in this country, as it is also difficult to give a consecutive account, owing to the fact that no records were kept in those early days. Also emigration took many Sisters from the Branches, so that there were constant changes.

It was not until early in 1877 that a record appeared in the "Millennial Star" giving an account of the London Conference held on April 22nd, 1877, where three Female Relief Societies were reported to have been established in that Conference. Again, in 1878, the Branch Presidents of the North London, Lambeth and Whitechapel Branches reported their Female Relief Societies as containing only a few members, but that they were doing good in visiting the sick and helping the poor.

From this meagre beginning, the work gradually grew, until 1884, when, according to the "Star," there were quite a number of Relief Societies in the Mission. One feature to remember, however, is that much opposition was being manifested at this time; also constant emigration kept the work in a primitive state. There were no set lessons, no guide of any kind to show what was expected of the Sisters. They had to devise means of their own to raise money to help the sick and needy.

In 1896 a Branch of the Relief Society was functioning in the Nottingham Branch under the direction of Sister Cable. It is interesting to note that the Saints in this Branch held their meetings at this time in a loft above a stable. Yet, in this lowly meeting place, the dying were raised to life and the Gift of Prophecy was heard. These Sisters, it is easy to imagine, were full of the Spirit of the Lord, and went about doing their duty in spite of persecution.

About the year 1902, a Branch came into being in Handsworth, Birmingham District, but was not fully organised until some years later. In this year, also, Oldham Branch Relief Society was first organised, with Sister Elizabeth Ann Birchall as President, and in 1907 a second Branch was opened in the Manchester District at Hyde. This Branch in Hyde certainly made history. During the last war, they were left, these Sisters, to carry on the work of the Branch alone. All the members of their Priesthood were on duty with the Forces, yet these Sisters carried on, doing the work of the whole Branch, holding meetings as usual on Sunday, but without the Sacrament. Here, through the inspiration of these Sisters in gathering in children from the street, to give them a happy time, the first Primary in the British Mission was organised. Again, these Sisters formed the first group of Singing Mothers.

In 1904 the Norwich Branch held its first meeting; in 1907

Sheffield Sisters were organised; and from then on the Relief Societies began to grow and spring up all over the Mission under the direction of President and Sister Charles W. Penrose. A treatise was written by Sister Penrose on Relief Society work and published in the "Star" for the guidance of the members. Sister Penrose, in 1908, gave instructions for celebrating the 66th Anniversary of the Relief Society, and 29 Branches are reported as celebrating this event on March 17th.

In 1910 a Relief Society was organised by President Charles W. Penrose at Gainsborough, Lincs., which has continued to this day.

A feature of the Relief Society work has been its readiness and willingness to lend a helping hand in whatever circumstances might arise, whether inside or outside the Church. One of the greatest examples occurred during the years 1914-1918, when the first World War enveloped many nations. Work was done for the Red Cross, money was raised for the same organisation by giving concerts, holding bazaars, sales of work and socials. Clothing was made for the members of the Forces, and, through the Sisters' efforts, much good publicity was given to the Church.

After the war, the lessons for the Relief Societies were developed and courses of study were mapped out. Through this a keener interest was developed. First, lessons were prepared for the British Mission only, but later, under the Presidency of Sister Zina C. Brown, lessons were taken straight from the Relief Society Magazine.

Branches have been opened in Scotland, Wales and Ireland. It is a curious fact that the Dublin Banch consisted, at the time of the last war, with few exceptions, of German Sisters or the children of German parents. Thus many of their menfolk were interned, save a few who had been naturalised. These Sisters have sent a large sum of money every Christmas to be distributed to those in the British Mission in need.

In December, 1932, a British Mission Board was formed. Lessons, programmes for the Annual Relief Society Day, minute books, dues, and individual Branch problems had to be studied and dealt with. Personal contact has been kept, as far as possible, with the members of the Relief Societies all over the Mission.

In 1939, with the outbreak of the present war, Sister Zina C. Brown, who was then President of the British Mission Relief Society, was called back to America, and Sister Marie W. Anastasiou took her place.

Again, as in 1914, the Sisters have responded to their country's call, and work is progressing all over the Mission for the Red Cross Society. Comforts are being knitted and meetings held under the most adverse conditions. But the Relief Society carries on even though some of its members live, as it were, in the front line, with true Relief Society tradition, hoping and praying for better days to come.

The Reconciliation

By Sister Ethel Bailey, Jr.
Of Sheffield District

FIRST PRIZE STORY

ONLY the ticking of the clock broke the silence in the small sitting room. In a rocking chair sat a white haired old lady. A much younger woman stood before the mirror and as she gazed at herself she seemed pleased, and well she might be, for Beth Morrison was indeed pretty.

A sigh escaped the old lady's lips and, as if she knew it was meant for her, Beth suddenly turned around. "Don't start again, Granny," she said. "You know it's no use; all the preaching in the world will never make me believe that Relief Society is for us young as well as you old folk," and with this she pulled her hat over her auburn curls.

A faint smile crossed old Sister Roger's face, and gently she said, "No, Beth, I'm not going to preach; I was just thinking."

"I understand," replied her granddaughter, "thinking why I don't go along with you, to your old woman's class, instead of keeping my date with Bill." With a hurried "goodbye" Beth left the room.

Sister Rogers looked at the clock, and as she arose to prepare herself for Relief Society, a prayer crossed her lips. "In Thy hands it rests, O Lord; Thy will be done."

Beth was all smiles as Bill greeted her with his usual kiss and "Hello, you!" He took her arm, and as he piloted her towards the green, winding path he said, "I've some great news Beth. Just wait until you hear it." "News," cried the girl, "what kind of news." Bill grew quite serious, and bracing himself up, he said, "I'm going away."

For a moment neither spoke, then Beth broke the silence. "You call that great news; why, what shall I do here without you?" The boy gave a forced laugh, "You'll get along, Beth, but let me tell you more," Eagerly Beth listened as Bill told of how for many years he'd had a secret longing to fulfil a mission, but when he met Beth he decided that he couldn't save for both a mission and a home, so he decided to forget his ambition and prepare for a home; maybe a mission would come later. However, when he arrived home that evening, there it was, a call from the First Presidency for him to fulfil a mission. "And so," ended Bill, "I must go: the Lord has called, I cannot refuse; besides, just think, Beth, what a

schooling it will be, and I shall come back better fitted to be a husband."

Another silence followed, and, as he watched Beth's face, Bill grew alarmed. "What's wrong," he asked. "Everything," replied the girl. "Oh, Bill, don't go. Our marriage, that comes first, that alone is a mission itself." "I know," he said, "but two years isn't long, and then we'll settle down. Besides, it's a grand chance for us both; you'll have time now for the Relief Society, for it's there where you can prepare for our greater mission. "No, Bill," she said; "You go, but when you get back I shall have gone. Can't you understand, our love must come first."

For a while they walked in silence. Suddenly Bill said, "I'll go to the Chapel to see the Bishop; he is meeting with the Sisters after Relief Society, but he'll spare me a moment." As the couple entered the room, all eyes turned in their direction. Beth took a seat in the rear, whilst Bill went into the Bishop's room. The lesson was in progress, but Beth had no ears for that; her mind was in a turmoil. It wasn't fair of Bill, but then he wouldn't go and leave her, that was why he had come to see the Bishop. Dear old Bill, always reliable. Suddenly her attention was drawn by the words of the class teacher: "And so it may seem to us, as women, that our part in this life is sit back and wait, but our part in this plan of salvation is beyond imagination. We must give, give until it hurts, and then give again. Take for example the Mormon women of the past. They are gone, but through their sacrifices and unselfish efforts, their deeds live on. What of Sister Whitney? She gave birth to her baby under an umbrella, because the roof leaked, and all around spelt poverty, yet in her darkest hour she found time to say to her husband, 'You go to England, Orson, the Lord will protect me.' And what of Eliza R. Snow? Her body was racked with consumption, yet she never complained. What a noble woman she was. So," went on the teacher, "you women here do your part, and leave behind a trail for the rising generation to follow, a trail of unselfishness. love, and security."

Tears blinded Beth's eyes. Yes, she had to admit she was selfish and unappreciative, but deep down within she had a testimony.

The Bishop and Bill came in and took a seat behind her. The teacher spoke again. "The lesson for next week is, 'A hundred years with the Mormon women,' and here are the assignments: Will you, Sister Johnson take question one, and you, Sister Beth, take problem two?"

Beth gave a start. "Why I - - I - ! why, yes, of course, and Sister, whilst here, can I pay my membership fee? You see, Bill is going on a mission, and I have such a lot to learn, for when he comes home we're both starting on a greater mission, to prepare a trail for our children, and maybe our children's children."

As she sat down Bill squeezed her arm in gratitude, and from the lips of old Sister Rogers went another prayer, of thankfulness.

The Latter-Day Saints' "Millennial Star"

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1942

EDITORIAL

Relief Society Centennial

AT long last the year 1942, the third month and the seventeenth day have come for the women of our Church to celebrate the Century of our Relief Society. This is our Centennial Year, for which we are humbly grateful.

The women of the Church in the British Isles join the Sisterhood of the Church the world over in joy, praise and thanksgiving for the inspired establishment of our Relief Society one hundred years ago by our beloved Prophet, Seer and Revelator, Joseph Smith. One hundred thousand women greet the Centennial Day in the spirit of prayer, gratitude and joy for the glorious achievements, enterprise and fulfilment of the plan and purpose for which this Organisation was set up a hundred years ago.

For one hundred years the Relief Society has been growing in strength, influence and service to feed the hungry, nurse the sick, bury the dead and comfort the broken hearted. Today we are reaping a rich harvest from the toil, service and sacrifice of the great and noble women who have preceded us. Our harvest is rich, our Society is honoured, our leaders are justly praised for their services, fortitude and benevolence. The genius of all our Relief Society Presidents, past and present, and countless numbers of Counsellors and members throughout the Church, touched by divine inspiration, lead by the counsel and inspiration of the Priesthood of God, have given us a Relief Society structure—an edifice—worthy of recognition and respect.

Although the world, through ignorance and suspicion, still frowns on our Church and people, the Church as a whole, and the Sisters especially, are proud to think that darkness and suspicion prevail outside rather than inside the Church. Living, intelligent faith, practical application of the divine principles of the restored Gospel, tireless efforts of the women of the Church, blessed with intelligence and vision, with strong courage and devotion to the ideal service to God and humanity, have made us and our Society a power for good among the nations of the earth.

Not only in the field of charitable effort and philanthropic devotion has our Relief Society distributed millions of pounds, but its great membership has been organised and educated very successfully in the fields of literature, art, social service, hygiene, child and Church welfare, including moral, religious and spiritual education.

Women of great intellect, doctors, professors and scientists

on the one hand, and simple hard-working mothers, daughters and wives on the other, working in a most ideal unity of purpose, love and affection, have revolutionized the social relationship of societies, manifesting a most democratic principle of co-operative effort ever witnessed in any other similar organisation.

The Relief Society in Great Britain through its 65 years of existence has been instrumental in helping the British Mission of the Church to a very great extent. It has been inseparable from the whole, contributing of its means, talent, and effort for the alleviation of poverty, sickness and suffering among the members as well as the strangers. In spite of the difficult conditions in which we find ourselves today, 50 Relief Societies are functioning regularly.

We are indeed happy and privileged to share with the Sisters of the Church in Zion our great heritage as Mothers and Daughters of Israel, faithful in our tasks, willing in our effort, and happy in our service to humanity.

We are humbly proud in contemplating that some of the greatest intellects of our Church in the Relief Society and other organisations, are of British stock and parenthood. Indeed, it was comforting to hear President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., say in 1936, at the Victoria Hall in London: "Our feet are planted in this country." This commonwealth of free nations has produced many leaders, and some of them, blessed with the divine Priesthood and authority, stand at the head of this Church today, to guide its destinies and build the ramparts of the Heavenly Kingdom.

As we view our Relief Society down the vista of the past hundred years, we see its greatness, and realise its influence upon its immediate membership of the Church of almost one million, as well as upon several more millions who are related to our members, and who have tasted the sweetness of service of this great organization.

This year shall long be remembered by the Latter-day Saints, for it marks another century of great accomplishments of the women of the Church, who have pioneered not only the cause of its own female membership, but the cause of womanhood of the word in its struggle of emancipation, equality and freedom of rights and privileges enjoyed by men, but long denied to women.

To be a member of the Relief Society in this Centennial year is indeed a privlege, a blessing, and an honour. If every woman, young or old, wife, mother or daughter, belonging to this Relief Society of the Church, whether as an officer or merely a member, would take time to count during this Centennial year the blessings, advantages and opportunities that accrue to her as an individual from this Society, if she would fully appreciate her own contributions to the Society, she would, I am sure, re-double her efforts and sincerely and honestly contribute a greater share of her time, means and service to this benevolent organisation, and ever be faithful to its motto: "Charity Never Faileth."

—Marie W. Anastasiou.

Messages from British Mission Relief Society Supervisors

IT is now twenty-three years ago since I first went to Relief Society meeting. During that time, I have endeavoured to fulfil my obligations to this grand organisation, and looking back I can truthfully say that the happiest times of my life have been spent among the members of the Relief Society, trying to carry out its practical ideals, as well as its spiritual ideals.

I wish that every Sister in the Church could see their way clear to join with us; there is so much to learn, the lessons are instructive, and there is such a beautiful spirit among the Sisters.

The Lord has called to the women of the Church, through our Prophet, to come out and work shoulder to shoulder with the Priesthood. What a glorious opportunity!

May our numbers increase, and may we all grow in spirituality, is the prayer of

Your Sister,
Anne M. Bickerstaff, London.

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With what rejoicing and celebration we had hoped to usher in our great Relief Society Centennial. This society of women was organised and set apart on March 17th, 1842, for a special mission of peace and goodwill and service to humanity, the quest of knowledge and the desire to make all with whom they come in contact happier, and to spread the light of truth. Instead, there is war, sorrow and distress, which evil powers bring upon the earth. Thus we will celebrate our Centennial by working harder than we have ever done, giving more than we have ever given, and, above all, living closer than we have ever lived to the laws of the Gospel and th ideals.

The century of the Relief Society work has influenced the lives of some of the most noble and talented women of the Church, women whose lives have been a source of inspiration to thousands of Relief Society women, who have, in turn, been an inspiration to many thousands more. So, to celebrate, we Carry On!

Marie Fyffe, Liverpool.

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A Centennial! What is it! What does it mean to us, members of the Relief Society? It conveys a thought of 100 years of toil and perseverence. Our Sisters in the 19th century did not fail in their task, but have shown their faith by their works. What will the new era bring to our children, and theirs? We are going to hold dear the memory of the Relief Society Centennial. We shall gird ourselves with an active desire to march with our Sisters of long ago into a life of usefulness, showing to our efforts love, humility and peace amongst our fellow men. So may we march, placing our feet firmly in the line of rectitude before men and our Heavenly Father.

Mary Laycock, Sheffield.

Let the world turn its attention to our Church and its organisation and realise the achievements of the past hundred years. The aims and accomplishments of the Relief Society we would bring to their attention at this time of Centennial Celebrations. This organisation, composed of women, has reached a century mark of loving service and lofty ideals. Established with the primary purpose of caring for the sick and the needy, tending to the wants of the distressed, bringing the spirit of a Florence Nightingale to homes of grief, where death stalked, these noble deeds have been faithfully observed by women whose one desire has been to serve and bless.

To women of Britain, who seek to serve their country in this her hour of peril, I would venture to say they would be proud and honoured to be allied to such a cause if they understood better its tenets.

This grand organisation of women, at present 100,000 strong, will yet revolutionize, we pray, the world of womankind for good, and when the world itself finally grasps the great truths of this Church as a whole, surely men and women will fall down and worship before the God of Heaven as did the Israelites, when Elijah had completely overthown their false Gods.

Violet M. Coleby, Norwich.

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Greetings and love to our Mother President, Sister A. B. Lyman and her counsellors and co-workers. Greetings to our Sisters overseas—those we know and those we do not. Greetings to our British Mission President, Sister M. W. Anastasiou, her counsellors and co-workers. Greetings and love to every Sister in the British Mission and those in suppressed countries on this our Centennial Day, March 17th, 1942.

During the past 100 years, toil, perseverance and courage have won success to the cause, which our beloved Prophet inaugurated in the year 1842. Let us fight on in harness, in love, in sympathy, hand in hand with our Heavenly Father's Priesthood, that we in this day may build a perpetual monument to our children and their children, just as have our Pioneer Sisters and their successors in the past century. Let us pray we may not be found wanting in the cause we espouse.

Florence B. Dunn, Birmingham.

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For 100 years the Church has been trying to let the women of the world know, through the medium of the Relief Society, how to use their leisure time and gain wisdom and knowledge. Spirituality is needed today more than ever in the history of the world, because problems in the homes and business are more trying than ever before. The need for the best literature in the home should be the concern of every mother, and the home with all things repaired and neat, with love and beauty, is a home to all the family. Let us, the women of the Church, give a helping hand to the Relief Society Officers, and let us say "Thank you" to the inspired founders of the Relief Society.

S. Kelsh, Manchester.

(Continued on page 189)

Truth About Mormonism

SOME weeks ago I received from the Press Cuttings Service a clipping from the British magazine "Truth," containing this statement: "there might even be a marked diminution of enthusiasm for religious freedom if Mormon missionaries grew busy about the High Schools of Highgate." The statement was somewhat obscure in its meaning and difficult for me to define its implication. An interview was arranged with the Editor of "Truth" and it was of a most cordial nature. A reply was accepted and published in "Truth" on March 6th, with the Editor's comment added to it. "As we believe," in the context of my letter, was added subsequently.—A. K. A.

Sir,—Your article on "War Aims and Peace Aims" in the issue of February 6th contains a reference to Mormon missionaries. Why you should say that "there might even be a marked diminution of enthusiasm for religious freedom if Mormon missionaries grew busy about the High Schools of Highgate" is difficult for me to understand. Not knowing anything about these High Schools, the inference is not clear. I am inclined to think that this reference is not intended to cast any opprobrium upon the Mormon missionaries' character and their sacred work. But in case some of your readers might have formed a wrong impression, I will be grateful if you would allow me to state in your Journal on behalf of the Mormon missionaries that religious freedom is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint, which is its proper title. "We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege: let them worship how, where or what they may." Thirty-five full-time missionaries are giving of their time and means in preaching the Restored Gospel. In addition, the Church in this country is supported by 415 part-time missionaries. These British missionaries of the Church are a fine body of young men and women, virtuous, true and benevolent, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, tea and coffee, and giving all their spare time to missionary work. Not one of them receives a single penny for his or her services. The Church, organised (as we believe) by direct revelation from Heaven, on April 6th, 1830, with six members, today numbers nearly one million. There is no paid ministry in the Church, which has always upheld the principle of free agency of man and freedom of religion as its most sacred trust, teaching and encouraging all men to obey and keep the commandments of God. It is interesting to note that the emancipation of women in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints antedates by decades the emancipation of women in other communities and churches. In 1842 the Prophet Joseph Smith organised the first Women's Relief Society of the Church in America, granting thus full equality, religious franchise and suffrage rights with full powers to vote. Miss Seraph Young, a niece of Brigham Young, was the first woman at the polls, and voted in Salt Lake City in municipal elections. Utah has the distinction of two pioneer women

lawyers, Phoebe Cousins and Georgia Snow, who were admitted to the Utah Bar in 1872.

Rev. A. K. Anastasiou,
Acting Mission President.

British Headquarters,
149, Nightingale Lane, London, S.W.12.

[As our correspondent surmises, "Truth's" reference to Mormon Missionaries was not intended to cast opprobrium on Mormonism, any more than on the Society of Friends, the Society of Jesus, the Plymouth Brethren or any other religious body mentioned in the same context. The point of the paragraph was, indeed, directed to the breasts of those who *cry* for religious freedom, but whose attitude towards other demoninations than their own makes their cry hypocritical. Our correspondent's description of the followers of Prophet Joseph Smith, as a body of ascetic men and women, is not to be cavilled at, despite the music-hall, comic-paper presentation of Mormons with which the British public is more familiar.—Ed.]

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MESSAGES FROM BRITISH MISSION RELIEF SOCIETY SUPERVISORS.

(Continued from page 187)

As we stand on the threshold of the second century of Relief Society work, one can look back with admiration to the Pioneers who sponsored this great movement. Their achievements have become world-wide, and the enormous amount of work accomplished during the last century should indeed be an inspiration to all of us to carry on this noble work. In this, the Newcastle District, the Sisters have bravely defended their cause, against great persecution and ridicule. Many of the Saints, some of whom have emigrated to Zion, will remember the terrible days of persecution in the years 1910-1913, when windows were smashed, homes damaged, and Missionaries ill-treated and molested. The memory of those days have strengthened our loyalty and love for this work and we rejoice that we are counted worthy to be followers of those Pioneers who overcame much greater difficulties, and made it possible for us to participate in the benefits derived from Relief Society associations.

Margaret Walker, Newcastle.

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This is the organisation which appeals greatly to me, because it educates a woman in every sphere of life, if she will but read and live the instructions given in the beautiful lessons.

In a home, one woman is necessary to keep the house in order, but in God's house, all the women must play an active part, some leading, some urging and some following, as the offices and duties are so very numerous.

In our Relief Societies we can develop a Sisterhood which binds us closer to each other, closer to our President, and, above all, closer to our Father in Heaven.

May we, each as daughters of God, continue along these lines, following in the footsteps of our wonderful Relief Society leaders, showing them their efforts have not been in vain.

Kitty Laycock, Leeds.

District Activities

Liverpool

Twenty members and friends attended a social conducted by Lady Missionaries Sisters Delia Bedford and Joyce Gittins, held in the Blackburn Branch Hall on Saturday, February 7th. Refreshments were served by the Sisters of the Branch, and twenty-four shillings was raised for the purchase of new hymn books.

Nottingham

Hucknall Branch Conference was held on February 8th. District President George E. Gent and his Counsellors were present. President Gent and Brother George W. Winfield were the speakers.

Scottish

On Sunday, March 1st, a cottage meeting was held in the home of Brother Thomas Graham, Airdrie Branch President. District President A. B. McGowan was in attendance and spoke of the duties of Latter-day Saints during these times. Time was allowed for testimony bearing and a splendid spirit prevailed throughout the meeting. The Saints of the Scottish District have greatly appreciated the cottage meetings held in the rural districts of Scotland, and it is the intention of the District Presidency to hold as many as possible during the summer season.

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PERSONALS.

McDONALD - WARD — The marriage of tSister Isabella Scott McDonald of the Glasgow Branch to Elder Frank Hatton Ward of the North London Branch took place on March 2nd, 1942, in the Deaf and Dumb Institute, West Campbell Street, Glasgow. District President A. B. McGowan officieted; Sister Mina Thomson rendered a vocal solo, "I'll Walk Beside You." Following the ceremony, about fifty guests sat down to a splendid supper and then celebrated with songs, games and dancing. This was the first Latter-day Saint wedding to be held in public in Glasgow, and it made a great impression on those who attended. Brother and Sister Ward left Glasgow the following day for a short honeymoon, after which they returned to Chelmsford, Essex, where they are to reside. This Sister and Brother have both served full time Missions.

REED—The infant daughter of Mr. and Sister John L. Reed of the Pontlanfraith Branch, Welsh District, was blessed by Branch President William Griffiths on Sunday, February 22nd, and given the names of Janet Olive. The child was born on January 5th, 1942.

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DEATH.

WATERS — Sister Emma Waters passed away on Tuesday, December 23rd, 1941. A service was held in the home of Brother and Sister Ward on December 27th, preceding the interment. It was conducted by District President Norman Dunn of Birmingham, of which District Sister Emma Waters was the oldest member. The burial was in Wombourn Churchyard, near Wolverhampton, and Brother Robert L. Dunn dedicated the grave.

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A Monument With A Message

By Mary Grant Judd
Relief Society General Board Member

THE Latter-day Saints are a practical people, and the religion is a practical religion; yet, when it comes to places or events of significance in their past, there is no people with more sentiment. We rejoice when we learn that the Church has purchased some spot memorable in its early history, and thrill to the impressions we receive when we are privileged to stand upon one of these sacred spots.

A few of the places with a pull of sentiment that have come into possession of the Church are: the birthplace of our Prophet in Vermont, where a granite shaft magnificently pierces the blue; and the farm in New York State where Joseph Smith laboured as a youth, and near which is the Sacred Grove with its glorious, majestic trees in all their pristine beauty. The Church owns Liberty Jail in Missouri, in which once stood "majesty in chains," as Joseph rebuked the uncouth guards whose foul language he could no longer endure. Later, in this same jail, he was given consolation from his Father in heaven in language as sublime as any to be found in the Doctrine and Covenants.

The Latter-day Saints believe in building monuments on significant spots; they believe that they breathe a message to the beholder that could not be accomplished so well through any other medium. Two such monuments are the monument of the Angel Moroni atop the Hill Cumorah which testifies to Christ's appearance on the American continent, and the inspirational piece of sculpture placed at the old Mormon cemetery at Winter Quarters which proclaims the message that the faith of Mormonism turns disaster and what might otherwise be defeat into victory.

And now another monument with a message is planned, to be placed on Temple Square. At our forthcoming Centennial celebration, it is the plan of the Relief Society to present to the Church a campanile, or bell tower. Besides marking the turn of a century, this monument will house in a permanent and beautiful setting the historic Nauvoo Temple bell.

This priceless relic played an important part in early Church history. Cast in bronze, it was brought by the way of sailing vessel from England as a gift from the British converts. It hung in the Temple before that edifice was completed and remained their until, following the evacuation of the Saints, it was rescued from a ruthless mob who were about to make away with it. David Burlock Lamoreaux drove his wagon underneath the bell, lowered it and delivered it to the Church, its rightful owner. It was the Lamoreaux family who hauled it in their wagon the long distance across the plains, and they willingly walked much of the way to do so.

In the huge volumes designated as "Journal History," now

in the Church Historian's Office, the day-by-day history of the trek is recorded. Occasional reference is made to the bell, showing that during the trek it had practical use. It awakened the herdsmen at dawn and reminded them to turn out their cattle to water. It tolled to call the people from their wagons to bow in morning prayer. It rang again when the time for starting the day's march arrived. It rang in the night to let the Indians understand that the sentry was at his post.

After the arrival of the Pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley, the bell was used at the old Bowery, predecessor of the Tabernacle, calling the Saints to religious worship. It rang at dawn to announce that the dangers of the night had passed and that cattle could be turned out to graze without fear of marauding Indians.

For some time past, the First Presidency of the Church has felt that this valuable relic should be given more prominence, but no definite decision had been reached concerning the project. Without knowing this, the Relief Society General Board asked permission to place the bell in a tower as a contribution to the Church, commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the Society and honouring the thousands of unsung Relief Society heroines who, over this period of one hundred years, have exhibited such unselfish service to humanity and wonderful devotion to a Cause . Without thought of honour accruing to themselves or financial reward in even the smallest measure, Relief Society women have nursed the sick, comforted the bereaved, buoyed up the discouraged and disconsolate, nourished the hungry, clothed the naked, and even tenderly prepared the dead for burial.

But there is even greater significance attached to the proposed Relief Society memorial. We believe that in the near future thousands of visitors who came to Temple Square will pause before this tie between the past and the present and, as they view this old bell which has been in our midst longer than the memory of any living man, they will be impressed as the guide recites the early history of the Church. Thus, this priceless possession will continue to play well its part. And, since the story of our organization will be included, our influence for good will extend on and on in ever-widening circles.

(See back cover)

The picture on the back cover is a photograph of the proposed memorial campanile to be erected on Temple Square as a feature of the Relief Society Centennial observance. The structure, designed by Lorenzo Young, Salt Lake architect, is to have a black granite base and terrazzo terrace, with the upper part of the campanile of cast bronze. At the top of the granite base an urn containing a light will illuminate the bell at night. The height of the structure is to be thirty-five feet. Four plaques for the base are being designed by Avard Fairbanks.

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